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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Rescue efforts stalled by fire

Flames break out at collapsed Bangladesh building hours after owner's captured trying to flee PAGE 4

Tories boot 3rd candidate

B.C. Conservatives mum on why they dumped Vancouver-West End contender Ron Herbert PAGE 3

Dun, dun, dun ...

Vancouver Canucks will try to avoid becoming Shark chum in Round 1 of playoffs vs. San Jose PAGE 14

FEARLESS — OR FOOLISH?

WITH NO PRIZE TO SPEAK OF, THE NEW SHOW PANIC BUTTON PITS CONTESTANTS AGAINST WALLS OF FIRE AND PITS OF SPIDERS AND RATS PAGE 9

A police officer walks by the scene of a two-vehicle crash at 176 Street and 32 Avenue in Surrey. Five people were killed and one was taken to hospital in critical condition. SHANE MACKICHAN/CONTRIBUTED

2 kids among 5 killed in Surrey crash

Collision. Vehicle carrying deceased was torn in two, with debris scattered at scene

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Two children and three adults were killed in a horrific crash in Surrey on Sunday morning when the vehicle they were travelling in was hit by a minivan that authorities believe ran a red light.

A white Dodge Caravan was travelling westbound on 32 Avenue when it smashed into a black import vehicle heading north on 176 Street and killed everyone inside, Surrey RCMP said.

The minivan's driver and sole occupant, a man in his 40s, was airlifted in critical condition to the Royal Columbian Hospital, where he remained Sunday evening.

The force of the collision was so great that a pair of white sunglasses thought to have been ejected from one of the vehicles was embedded in the street post.

Both cars overturned and were destroyed, their metal parts strewn across the highway as about a dozen investigators tried to piece together what happened.

The black vehicle was so badly crushed and scattered — it was torn in two pieces — that investigators had yet to identify the model hours after the crash.

Neighbours told reporters at the scene the crash sounded like an explosion, and police said it was one of the worst sites they've seen.

Fire crews were even spotted checking the roof of a corner gas station for debris.

Detours were set up as roads were closed around the intersection for the majority of the day.

The names and ages of the deceased had not been released by 5 p.m. as officers worked to notify next of kin.

It is possible the deceased were all from the same family, police said.

At the scene, a man sat with his head in his hands on the curb behind the police tape. As it started to rain, an investigator put a coat around his shoulders.

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Mortgage Matters p.6-7

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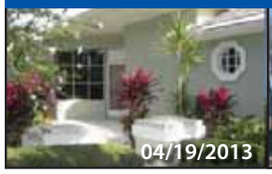

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Provincial election

Tories fire third candidate, senior volunteer resigns

The BC Conservatives have fired a third candidate after reviewing a vetting process that allowed two others to slip through the cracks.

Leader John Cummins said in a written statement Sunday that he has dumped Vancouver-West End candidate Ron Herbert, though he did not specify why.

Herbert's dismissal follows those of two other candidates who were fired earlier in the week for making inappropriate comments.

A senior volunteer responsible for screening candidates has also stepped down, Cummins said.

"In light of last week's revelation about two of our candidates, I ordered a full re-vetting of all BC Conservative candidates," he said in the written statement. "These are never easy situations for a campaign, but I believe that leaders must act proactively."

Herbert was named a candidate just one day before the nomination period closed. The BC Conservatives' website says Herbert was once a board member for the federal Conservative Party in Vancouver South. He was also the first openly gay president of the University of British Columbia Youth Conservatives while he was participating in federal politics.

The provincial Tories dismissed Mischa Popoff in the Boundary-Similkameen riding on Thursday for making comments in newspapers that Cummins said are disrespectful to women and single mothers.

Just a day before Popoff's dismissal, Ian Tootill was dropped by the party as its candidate for Vancouver-False Creek over comments he made on Twitter last fall about Nazi dictator Adolph Hitler.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal Leader Christy Clark arrives at a North Vancouver campaign rally Sunday. The premier apologized after the Vancouver Sun ran a profile in which the reporter observed her running a red light with her son in the car. But she denied that she frequently runs lights. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Trying to steer clear of controversy

Criticism follows Sun article. Premier issues mea culpa for running red light; Dix tells media he won't comment on story

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

Premier Christy Clark spent Sunday condemning her own actions behind the wheel.

A flurry of criticism was levelled against the Liberal leader over the weekend after the Vancouver Sun ran a profile on Clark in which the reporter, Jonathan Fowlie, observed the premier running a red light at an abandoned intersection early one morning after being egged on to do it by her 11-year-old son, Hamish.

"I shouldn't have done it, and I certainly shouldn't have done it with my son in the car," Clark asserted when asked how she could justify the reported infraction.

"I work hard to be a great parent, and I'm not a perfect parent. I shouldn't have done it."

The story quotes Clark telling her son not to run red lights "because that would be breaking the law."

"You always do that," responds Hamish, according to the report.

Despite apologizing Sunday, Clark denied she frequently runs lights.

"That's not true," she said.

NDP Leader Adrian Dix, who came under criticism last year for riding the SkyTrain without valid fare, told media he wouldn't comment on the story.

Both leaders spent Sunday campaigning in the community.

Dix was in Coquitlam to play basketball with Burke Mountain candidate Chris Wilson and 11-year-old Jack Stuart, founder of the Jack of Hearts Foundation — which raised money to fund research on hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

Clark carried on the Sunday sports theme by picking up the stick and playing some street hockey with children during a North Vancouver campaign rally with local candidates.

The fun and games end Monday, as the two rivals join Green Party Leader Jane Sterk and Conservative Leader John Cummins for the televised leaders debate.

The debate — available on all major networks — airs live from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

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Owner of collapsed factory caught trying to flee Bangladesh

Garment plant tragedy. Fugitive businessman captured in border town; meanwhile rescue efforts halted after fire breaks out in rubble

The fugitive owner of an illegally constructed building that collapsed and killed at least 377 people was captured by commandos as he tried to flee into India.

At the disaster site, meanwhile, fire broke out in the rubble and forced authorities to suspend the search for survivors temporarily.

Mohammed Sohel Rana was arrested on Sunday in the western border town of Benapole, said Jahangir Kabir Nanak, junior minister for local government.

Rana was brought back by helicopter to the capital of Dhaka where he faces charges of negligence. Rana's capture was announced by loudspeaker at the disaster site, drawing cheers and applause from those awaiting the outcome of a continuing search-and-rescue operation for survivors of Wednesday's collapse.

Many of those killed worked at clothing factories in the building, known as the Rana Plaza. The collapse was the deadliest disaster to hit the garment industry in Bangladesh that is worth $20 billion annually, supplies global retailers and is a mainstay of the economy.

The fire that broke out late Sunday night sent smoke pouring from the piles of shattered concrete and halted some of the rescue efforts — including a bid to free a woman who was found trapped in the rubble.

The blaze was caused by sparks as rescuers tried to cut through a steel rod to reach the woman, said a volunteer, Syed Al-Amin Roman. At least three rescuers were injured in the fire, he said. It forced them to retreat while firefighters frantically hosed down the flames. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relatives of missing workers in a building that collapsed on Wednesday hold pictures of their family members in Savar, near Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Sunday. KEVIN FRAYER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the Playroom: Kids re-enacting tragic stories

In one of Jonathan Hobin's newest provocative photographs, GOT HIM!, a marine with a toy gun shoots Osama bin Laden in a messy ketchup-blood scene beside a kitchen fridge. JONATHAN HOBIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

For Picasso's masterpiece Guernica, it was the German bombing of a Spanish town. For Ottawa art photographer Jonathan Hobin's Twins, it was 9/11.

Current events have always inspired art, and Hobin's latest instalment in his controversial series In the Playroom is an arresting modern example.

Each of his photos depicts children at play re-enacting tragic public events.

Hobin, 33, has portrayed familiar stories, such as a Halloween-inspired Abu Ghraib prison scene, a portrait of the late North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il and JonBenét Ramsey dressed in a pageant gown, among others.

He says the child models in his photographs are unpaid volunteers, and are either the children of friends and family, or models from agencies.

"I definitely would never have photographed a child unless I fully communicated what I was going to do," he said in an interview.

Parents "had to believe in what I was doing if I was going to photograph their child."

The idea for the series came after Hobin witnessed the repeated and unforgettable images of the planes striking the World Trade Center towers on 9/11.

"I started to think: 'I'm an adult and I can kind of handle what that means,'" he said.

"But with someone who is not as equipped as I am with problem-solving or just life experiences, how are they going to see that sort of thing? How are they going to comprehend what that means?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

Processing violence

Asked if he would depict the recent Boston Marathon bombings, Hobin said such events need time to play out in the culture before he can consider reflecting the stories visually.

- "It took probably about six or seven years before I did the 9/11 attacks. You kind of let the dust settle and see how it plays out," he said.

Showing solidarity?

More workers join Alta.'s prison guards in strike: Union

More provincial workers are joining Alberta's prison guards in a wildcat strike, according to their union, while the government counters that the union is spreading rumours and many guards are actually returning to work.

Tyler Bedford, a spokesman for the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, announced Sunday that provincial sheriffs in Edmonton and Calgary will join the strike by hundreds of jail guards.

The sheriffs are members of the same AUPE local as the guards. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank of Canada

Delay casts air of suspense over governor pick

With the announcement due in days, the overwhelming odds remain that second-in-command Tiff Macklem will be appointed the next governor of the Bank of Canada.

Yet the nearer the date approaches to Mark Carney's June 1 departure for London, questions are being asked about what is taking Finance Minister Jim Flaherty so long to confirm what markets and economists have long considered a near slam dunk.

It's been a full five months since Flaherty has known his first appointee to the central bank was taking his leave early. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Worked from bunker & van

Dutch suspect arrested in Spain over cyberattack

A Dutch citizen arrested in northeast Spain on suspicion of launching what is described as the biggest cyber-attack in Internet history operated from a bunker and had a van capable of hacking into networks anywhere in the country, officials said on Sunday.

The suspect travelled in Spain using his van "as a mobile computing office, equipped with various antennas to scan frequencies," an Interior Ministry statement said.

Agents arrested him on Thursday just north of Barcelona. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boston. FBI investigating whether bombing suspects got training: Lawmaker

The FBI is investigating in the United States and overseas to determine whether the suspects in the Boston Marathon bombing received training that helped them carry out the attack, the chairman of the U.S. House Homeland Security Committee said Sunday.

Rep. Michael McCaul spoke a day after U.S. officials disclosed that Russian authorities secretly recorded a telephone conversation in 2011 in which one of the two brothers suspected in the attack, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, vaguely discussed jihad with his mother.

The father of the Tsarnaev brothers, meanwhile, said from Russia on Sunday he is postponing a trip to the U.S. because of poor health.

Tsarnaev, 26, died in a police shootout. His younger brother, 19-year-old Dzhokhar, is charged with setting off the shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on April 15. Three people were killed and more than 260 were injured.

Anzor Tsarnaev, the father of the two Boston bombing suspects, postponed his trip to the U.S. Sunday because of poor health. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. officials investigating the bombings have told The Associated Press that so far there is no evidence to date of a wider plot, including training, direction or funding for the attacks.

The bombs were triggered by a remote detonator of the kind used in remote-control toys, U.S. officials have said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italy. Two officers shot outside Italian PM's office

An unemployed bricklayer shot two Italian policemen in a crowded square outside the prime minister's office in Rome Sunday just as Italy's new government was being sworn in, investigators said.

The gunman's intended target was politicians, but none were in the square so he shot at the Carabinieiri paramilitary police, Rome Prosecutor Pierfilippo Laviani told reporters, citing what he said were the suspect's own words.

Mired in recession and suffering from soaring unemployment, Italy has been in political paralysis since an inconclusive February election.

Social and political tensions have been running high among voters divided between centre-left, conservative and anti-government political parties.

Sunday was supposed to be a hopeful day when the debt-ridden nation finally got a new government to solve its many problems. But shots rang out in Piazza Colonna near a busy shopping and strolling area shortly after 11:30 a.m., just as Prime Minister Enrico Letta and his new ministers were taking their oaths at the Quirinal presidential office about a kilometre away.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Who's the space cadet on the new $5 bill?

Funny money. Dextre, Canada's extraterrestrial robotic go-to guy, rockets to fame on plastic notes — leaving focus groups scratching their heads

The Canadian Space Agency's robotic handyman, known as Dextre, ferries cargo from the Kounotori2 cargo ship to the International Space Station in this February 2011 file photo. Dextre will be featured on one of the Bank of Canada's new plastic notes. NASA/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The Bank of Canada is set to unveil its latest plastic bank notes this week — but documents show some people found one of the new bills too "cartoonish" and the other too old-fashioned.

Focus groups consulted about the proposed images for the new bank note series thought the space motif of the new $5 bill looked childish.

"There is a perception that the note looks 'cartoonish' or too child-like," says a 2009 report commissioned by the bank from The Strategic Counsel, obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act.

Others were left scratching their heads over the depiction of Dextre, a Canadian robotic handyman on board the International Space Station. Some people wrongly assumed Dextre was the name of an astronaut shown on the bill, while others had no clue who the name referred to.

"Dextre is not recognized — although once explained, it is accepted as an element of Canada's contribution to space technology that should be kept," the report says.

"The image of the space station is not recognized. It is confused with a concept drawing."

But if some people were stumped by the space-age technology on the $5 bill, others complained the train on the new $10s looked too quaint.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beef industry to propose using irradiation

Steaks are displayed at a grocery store in this file photo. Canada's beef industry is about to ask the federal government to approve the use of irradiation in meat-processing plants to kill E. coli bacteria in a full range of meat products. Irradiation involves bombarding meat with radiant energy similar to X-rays.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Trade

U.S. border fee not going to happen, congressman says

A U.S. congressman says Canadians should not be overly concerned about a proposed border-crossing fee, saying it just isn't going to happen. Democratic representative Brian Higgins, from Buffalo, N.Y., told CTV's Question Period on Sunday that he has a lot of allies in the U.S. Congress who will stop any legislation that includes a fee.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Virtual currency

Bitcoin dealers navigate unknown financial waters

Canadians buying and selling an emerging digital currency are running afoul of established banks and operating in uncharted territory for financial regulators. "The Canadian government doesn't know what a Bitcoin is, doesn't recognize the Bitcoin, and there's no regulatory agency that knows what a Bitcoin is," said Joseph David, the owner of VirtEx.

His Calgary-based website lets Canadians trade Bitcoins through an online market similar to a stock exchange. The company is one of several Bitcoin dealers struggling to navigate financial regulations that don't account for virtual currencies, and to cope with major banks shutting down their accounts without explanation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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LESLEY SCORGIE
For Metro

Seasonal items like lawn mowers can be bought over the course of a year to balance out a budget when moving into a home. JUPITERIMAGES/COMSTOCK/THINKSTOCK

Does it seem like each time you unpack a moving box you hear "cha-ching" in the background.

Not only are you on the hook for paying a mortgage, you have undoubtedly realized you have one-time "set-up" expenses. A simple trip to Walmart for cleaning supplies or the first grocery shopping trip for your new place can cost hundreds of dollars.

But don't fret. New homeowners typically find their expenses level out within 12 months of taking possession.

Try to prepare yourself by creating a budget to manage your first-year cash flow. In the budget, identify critical items that must be purchased in your first month, like furnace filters, new locks, garbage bags, paper towels, and vacuums.

Seasonal items can be purchased over the course of 12 months, like snow shovels, sidewalk salt, window washing squeegees, lawn mowers, flower planters, hoses, brooms, tools, and more.

Many new homeowners feel the need to furnish and decorate immediately, but take your time to search for deals. Not rushing to purchase a must-have sofa could save you hundreds by waiting for a sale.

As with most things in life, buying higher quality items typically pays off. So try to purchase quality used appliances, furniture, and home-care products through Kijiji, Craigslist or local consignment shops.

Some first-year expenses can surprise new homeowners. Regular maintenance bills for heating and cooling systems or hiring a plumber to fix a leaky tap can run upwards of $300. Tree pruning and roof maintenance can cost thousands. Emergencies are even more expensive.

To avoid racking up your credit card, do your best to plan for known expenses and set aside money every month for the unexpected ones.

Rest assured your cash flow will settle since you aren't going to need to purchase a new lawn mower every year. And if you are feeling bogged down by all the expenses, remember that home ownership is empowering and allows you to build equity in an asset.

Maintenance fund

- Regular home maintenance will protect homeowners from many unwanted issues like mould or premature furnace replacement. Most experts recommend that homeowners spend between one and three per cent of the value of their home on maintenances each year. Consider setting aside money in a maintenance fund.

Repairs. Frugal ways to fix up your home

Does your new place need a pick-me-up?

Perhaps the appliances, paint or lighting aren't suited to your tastes. Or maybe you plan to live there for a short time and only want to upgrade the bare essentials. Whatever your situation, there are plenty of frugal home improvements that will add value to your new digs.

Before you take a sledgehammer to your dilapidated 50-year-old garage, step back and make a list of the repairs or replacements you want to make to your home. It helps to consult your home inspection report since it lists what needs attention and how critical the item is.

Next, prioritize the items — hint, furnace repairs are essential in Canada and should take precedence over installing a built-in Ping-Pong table.

Then investigate the costs of each item.

If you are like most new homeowners, your list of improvements adds up to be something quite substantial. So stick to a budget and work through your list over the course of a few years.

Kick off your improvements with 50 to 100 hours of thorough cleaning — cabinets, drapes, floors, walls, closets, knobs, handles and more. This action is free and will allow you to better determine whether you can repair, rather than replace, certain aspects of the home. This can save thousands of dollars.

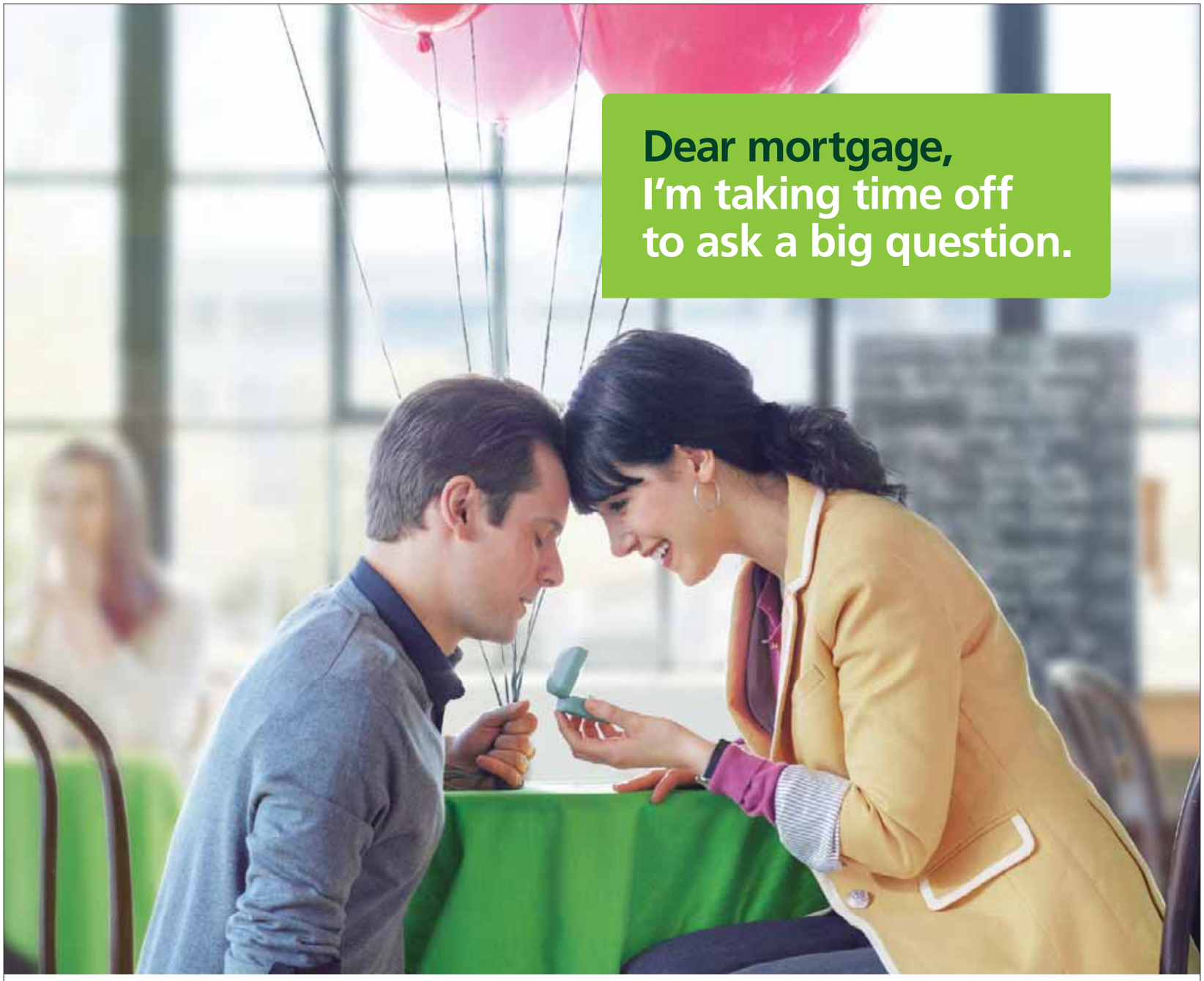
Move to the highest impact items next. Have your furnace, water heater and air conditioning unit inspected, repaired and cleaned. Upgrade appliances, faucets, refinish cabinets, re-grout tiles, and replace knobs and toilet seats. Reduce clutter by setting up well-designed storage spaces. Update light fixtures, carpets or refinish worn-out hardwood. Hire an electrician and plumber to fix any issues. Paint your walls and furnish your home with appealing items.

Many affordable home improvements can be completed by you, which saves money. When purchasing supplies, furniture or appliances, check for gently used items on eBay, Craigslist or Kijiji (I bought a new stove, still in its original wrapping, for $60).

It's easy to add value to your home through sweat equity and affordable upgrades. LESLEY SCORGIE

Hiring a contractor

- Sometimes home renovations require the services of a contractor. Check that your contractor has a valid licence (issued by the government). Ask for at least three references and view past work the contractor completed. If you are satisfied, review the contractor's contract with your lawyer, paying special attention to terms and conditions. Professional contractor Mike Holmes' website (makeitright.ca) has great suggestions on home renovations.



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ADRIAN DIX VERSUS THE POLLS

URBAN COMPASS

Paul Sullivan
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The most interesting race leading up to the May 15 provincial election is not the race between Christy Clark and David Eby in Vancouver-Point Grey or the race between Ida Chong and Andrew Weaver in Oak Bay-Gordon Head, although those are pretty interesting.

Nope. The most interesting race is the one between Adrian Dix and the polls.

After the first week of the campaign, Dix has what pollster Reid Mario Canseco calls a "comfortable" lead of 14 points over Christy Clark and the governing Liberals.

But if things keep going the way they're going, how long will it be before that "comfortable" is fitted with a prefix, as in "un"?

Dix, who has enjoyed a free ride since his coronation as NDP leader and premier-politely-in-waiting, waded into political deep waters on Earth Day, and decided to oppose the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion into Burnaby along with the extra tanker traffic planned to go with it.

This after months of saying that, as a matter of principle, he'd wait for the actual Kinder Morgan proposal before dumping all over it.

Once it became clear that his matter of principle was giving the Green party a clear shot at Kinder Morgan, and therefore introducing the threat of vote-splitting between the NDP and Greens, Dix dropped his principle down a black hole and decided to oppose whatever the pipeline company came up with.

Oh boy. Dix's "comfortable" lead has already eroded three percentage points since the last poll, leading to headlines about how the Liberals are closing the gap. And now, with one abandoned principle, he's completely changed the dynamic.

The Greens, who will never meet a resource project that doesn't lay waste to the environment and have no hope of getting elected anyway, continue to hold the high ground on pipeline opposition.

Dix, by going against his self-declared principle, has given Christy Clark a big sharp needle to jab him with.

And Christy Clark with a sharp object is a disturbing sight at any time, never mind on the eve of a leaders' TV debate.

Meanwhile, on the other end of the spectrum, the Conservatives have shot themselves in the foot with four separate bozo eruptions in a week!

Any chance that John Cummins and his band of bros could split the vote with the Liberals seems increasingly unlikely.

More and more it looks as if Christy will have the centre-right to herself, which means that it's increasingly Liberals vs. NDP head to head.

So the spectre of the unbelievable collapse of the Wildrose party and the miraculous re-election of the tired old Conservatives in Alberta now hangs over both the Conservatives and the NDP in B.C.

As Adrian Dix has said many times, there is no comfortable lead in the polls.

Now, after the live ammo has started to fly, there is little doubt he actually believes it.

ZOOM

Half military, half citizenry

ILYA PITALEV/2013 SONY WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS

Pyongyang crowd picture wins award

"In Pyongyang, half the people I saw were army men, the other half were civilians." These words by Ilya Pitalev are perfectly illustrated by his shot of soldiers and citizens in Kim Il-sung Stadium. Pitalev won the current affairs category at this year's Sony World Photography awards for his images of North Korea. **METRO**

Q and A

A microcosm of North Korea

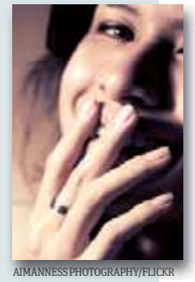
ILYA PITALEV
Photographer for RIA Novosti news agency, 42, from Moscow

How did you capture this striking juxtaposition?
The shot was taken inside Kim Il-sung Stadium. When the crowds first caught my eye, I could simply make out a geometric line dividing the people in two. There and then, I didn't think it was some profound or philosophical photograph — above all, it was a good, visual shot. But then after some time, I began to understand that the image reveals something about the country and its society.

What would you tell the world about North Korea?
That people there have their own celebrations in life and can find happiness. But they exist in a separate world, difficult for understanding from outside the country.

Clickbait

OK, it's time to mix up the 24-hour news updates, sports highlights and celebrity gossip that flood your Twitter feed, and incorporate some nonsensical, but punny accounts that pack their 140-character posts with something to snicker about.



AIMANNESS PHOTOGRAPHY/FLICKR

@Pundamentalism:
With puns such as, "Damn girl, you must be an English teacher, because when you're around I'm careful with the use of my colon," and, "If Satan loses his hair, there'll be Hell toupée," and other updates that vary between LQTMS and LOL, for example, "Thank-you for calling the Chronic Indecisiveness helpline. Please select one of the following 15 options," there isn't room for the mundane.

@SixthFormPoet:
If you can relate to self-deprecating humour with some intermittent cheesiness spliced into the mix, the Sixth Form Poet is just for you. With gems like , "'I'll have what she's having.' - Me, watching a woman having a nervous breakdown," and "'Never Eat Stolen Wheat.' - Moral compass," it's no wonder there is an entire book comprised of these jokes.

@GSElevator:
This over-heard-in the Goldman Sachs' elevator account is a cross between the likely and the too-good-to-be-true. Employees are encouraged to email awkward moments. Here's one glimpse into the lives of the one per cent: "#1: Spent last night pouring champagne, feeding her dessert, & telling stories of my trip to Bhutan. I've never been to Bhutan." No need to envy the proverbial fly on the wall.

Tweets

Don Cherry said the men's locker-room is no place for a woman during his weekly Coach's Corner segment on Hockey Night in Canada Saturday night while discussing the controversy around Chicago Blackhawks defenceman Duncan Keith (whose comments to a female reporter have been called sexist).
Naturally, fans took to Twitter to comment. What's your stance? Let @metropicks know.

@therealmcguirkk: don cherry bang on with his comments last night... imagine a male reporter in a female changeroom with naked women..oh the atrocity #feminazi

@Jare_Bear16: Rons face when don says women shouldnt be in the changeroom.. lmao

@mrcanadiantech: Looks like Don Cherry said something again, but I have to agree with him on this one.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

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TV Briefs

Two and a Half Men losing cast?

CBS announced on Twitter last Friday that it's bringing Two and a Half Men back next season, but didn't address whether the full cast would return. The series stars Ashton Kutcher, Jon Cryer and Angus T. Jones as Cryer's son. Jones' character is serving in the Army this season and has been somewhat less visible on Two and a Half Men.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will Angus T. Jones return to Two and a Half Men?
GETTY IMAGES

NBC renews five dramas

Television producer Dick Wolf will be busy next year. NBC said Friday that it has renewed five of its dramas for next season. Two of them — the long-running Law & Order: Special Victims Unit and Chicago Fire — are made by Wolf and his team. Revolution, Parenthood and Grimm were also given the guarantee that they will go on for another year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Panic Button premieres Tuesday on Space. HANDOUT

Who's afraid of a big, bad show?

Panic Button. New series pits people against their primal fears — and the only prize is bragging rights

What is your deepest, darkest innermost fear?

Participants come face-to-face with what scares them most in Panic Button, which premieres Tuesday at 10 p.m. ET on Space.

Volunteers are outfitted in red jumpsuits and helmets and invited to wander through a Big-Brother-style house of horrors in an environment that is Saw scary. Besides all manner of psychological terror, including being blindfolded, confined in tight spaces and wading through muck, they also have to endure live snakes, spiders and rats.

It all takes place in what was — appropriately enough — once a slaughterhouse in Toronto's West End.

This too-much-reality series features many slasher film motifs. Stark white rooms with No Exit stencilled on the wall above the entranceway give way to darkened, creepy corridors littered with hoses, wires and ankle-deep swill. At one point, players are confined in a standup metal booth the size of a coffin, which is then pushed through a wall of flames.

That's the easy part. Then the critters are unleashed. In some episodes, even Dobermans.

"This is psychotic," says one woman who braved her way to level three.

A disclaimer at the end tells viewers that "No harm was done to any animal" during the course of production. But what about the humans?

Players are given red, lit panic buttons they wear on their suits and can push the second it all gets too intense. The surprise in the pilot is who slaps theirs first and who holds out until the bitter end.

Women, reports fellow producer Kevin Healey (Scare Tactics), are more likely to be brave and proceed farther into the maze. Men are generally fraidy cats. "Guys are falling like fall leaves," says Healey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Bieber and Gomez continue to play up their reconciliation

In what has to be the surest sign yet that Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez have rekindled their romance, the Canadian pop star posted a photo to Instagram over the weekend of himself hunched shirtless over his laptop with a squinty-eyed Gomez cosying up behind him, arms around his midsection.

And the caption his chose for the revealing photo he shared?

"'You've been makin' music for too long, babe. Come cuddle' — her."

And there's further speculation about just how long they've been back together, as the picture was taken before Bieber acquired the tiger tattoo on his bicep he debuted last week.

Martha Stewart

Martha Stewart finds online dating to be half baked

Martha Stewart once turned to online dating site Match.com to help her find a boyfriend — but she couldn't go through with it.

"I started laughing halfway down the page," she tells Matt Lauer in an interview. "It was, like, impossible."

But Stewart insists, at least, that if she does go through with an online dating profile, she wouldn't hide her identity.

"I want to do my real thing," she says.

The Word

McGowan is letting her hairstyle go to her head

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

The newly platinum blonde actress Rose McGowan says her look is giving her a toughness she didn't have before.

"Part of (going blonde) is because I've been told (brunettes) look accessible and pleasing to the men in L.A. so as not to scare them. But then I realized I always scare them so f— it — I'm just going to do whatever I want and I've always wanted short platinum blonde hair so screw it....The men in Hollywood aren't men — they're guys like (whispers) Judd Apatow."

McGowan says this last part while making a face to suggest that Apatow doesn't chop his own wood, and adds, "Real men are hard to come by."

McGowan is so fierce during our recent interview on the Rooftop Terrace at Gramercy Park Hotel, it is hard to believe that the whole point in her talking to me is to promote the limited edition rose wine, Apothic Rose.

"I only drink Rosé, isn't that funny?" she says in a way that makes me feel it isn't contractually obligated. "I like it ghetto style — I usually pop an ice cube in it to chill it and take the sweetness out of it."

If you can't tell by now, McGowan isn't afraid to let loose on the current battle of the sexes in Hollywood.

"It's all frat guys; they condone sexism. The execs and the agents. They are people who went to law school and it wasn't sexy enough ... It's not like they want to be a part of great film making or anything," she said.

Lindsay Lohan

Will it be one luxurious rehab or another?

With less than a week to go before she's set to begin a court-ordered 90-day rehab stay, Lindsay Lohan reportedly still can't decide on which facility to check herself into, according to E! News.

"It is too hard for her," a source says. "She doesn't know yet, and it's been really hard for her to decided. Time has caught up too soon, but nowhere has been decided."

Her two top choices reportedly include a facility in New York City and a luxurious retreat on the Caribbean island of Antigua that would run more than $70,000 for the three-month stay. Lohan is due to check in somewhere Thursday.

Gwyneth Paltrow

Paltrow's premiere proves revealing

While Gwyneth Paltrow has received high marks from fashionistas for the sheer side panels in the gown she wore to the Iron Man 3 premiere last week, not everyone was a fan of the underwear-free look, and the Oscar-winning actress tells Ellen DeGeneres that she was "humiliated" by the bad press the gown received.

"I kind of had a disaster. I was doing a show and I changed there and I ... couldn't wear underwear," Paltrow says of the decision to rock the look. "Let's just say everyone went scrambling for a razor."

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Book

Drunk Mom tells painful story

As the mother of a newborn, Jowita Bydlowska justified her drinking as research for a novel about alcoholism. The final result? A memoir about her own struggles with addiction.

Drunk Mom (Random House, $22.95) is an agonizing catalogue of Bydlowska's drunken parenting failures, filled with excruciating details like the fact that she kept a secret stash of bottles in her son's sock drawer.

"I'm told that I have a dark sense of humour," says Bydlowska. "I don't know if I did it consciously, but you need a bit of relief."

She also writes with piercing honesty about using Google to determine if her breast milk was safe to drink, hiding bottles of vodka in her son's stroller and fighting with her partner, author and newspaper columnist Russell Smith.

After three and a half years of sobriety, Bydlowska had a drink at a friend's wedding in Warsaw before she knew she was pregnant.

She relapsed into full-blown alcoholism with a glass of champagne following the birth of her son.

She does wonder about what her son will think when he reads the book. "I certainly have this idea of him being a 13- or 14-year-old and throwing it at the wall," she says.

"My hope is that he'll read it with an open mind and an open heart. It's a memoir, but it's also a form of (making) amends."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Exclusively online

Follow along with the comedic (mis)adventures of mommyhood online with Reasons Mommy Drinks at metronews.ca/voices

What to expect when you're expecting after the age of 35

Pregnancy. Dr. Glade Curtis is a national authority on pregnancy. Now he turns his knowledge to the mid-30s set

NATALIE SHURE
Metro World News in New York City

Women who are older than 35 are more aware of the potential risks that come with pregnancy. ISTOCK

As author of 18 books on women's and baby's health, Dr. Glade Curtis is a national authority on pregnancy.

A newly revised edition of Your Pregnancy: After 35 is the latest addition to the authoritative Your Pregnancy: Week by Week series, co-authored by consumer and family studies expert Judith Schuler.

The updates are geared toward an ever-increasing proportion of women who choose to have children in their mid- 30s and beyond.

What did you consider when updating this book?
I think it's critical, when people want information about their health and pregnancy, that the information is up-to-date. I looked at every part of it to add new information, including how the science has changed. I think one of the more exciting areas for this population of pregnant women is all of the things we're learning about genetics and genetic counseling.

What are the best parts about pregnancy at this age?
They're more informed, and they're more aware of potential risks and problems. They have taken good care of themselves — if you compare that to an 18-year-old who wasn't trying to get pregnant, then it becomes clear that we don't need to be scared to death of these pregnancies.

What do women find most useful about this book?
The most important thing is being armed with accurate information so that when they visit their doctors they can ask the appropriate questions. The other thing is reassurance. For any woman and any couple, being pregnant is scary — the book reassures women that these are normal things that are happening.

What are some of the field's most important new medical advances?
One of the most exciting advances is all that has happened in ultrasound technology. Ultrasound has gotten so good, there are so many things we can do to evaluate the baby and help with the pregnancy.

What should expectant couples keep in mind during a pregnancy?
I think it's always important to remember to enjoy the miracle of birth. So, make sure you enjoy the excitement, the fun and the miracle of having a baby.

Before IVF, try these baby-making tricks

LINDA CLARKE
Metro World News in New York City

There are four or five days when a woman is most likely to conceive. ISTOCK

If you're having trouble conceiving, you're not alone.

Women's health expert Dr. Donnica L. Moore, a spokesperson for the Clearblue ovulation test, says that some problems in conceiving can be avoided. She and Dr. Victoria Maizes, author of Be Fruitful: The Essential Guide to Maximizing Fertility and Giving Birth to a Healthy Child gave us a preconception checklist.

Be patient
"Women erroneously think that once they stop taking birth control — voila! They will become pregnant. It can happen, but generally the hormones have to settle down," says Moore.

Mark your calendar
"There are four or five days when a woman is most likely to conceive," says Moore. "The time of ovulation and a few days before is when couples need to plan to have intercourse. That's where Clearblue come in. It checks the LH surge (a rise in luteinizing hormone, which happens right before ovulation starts)."

Enjoy sex
"Procreational sex is very different from recreational sex and it puts a lot of stress on couples. That stress makes you less likely to want to have sex, and it becomes a cycle," says Moore.

Ditch low-fat dairy — really!
"Whole-fat dairy products are associated with a lower risk of infertility. This may be due to the way the hormonal balance shifts when we remove milk fat to make low-fat milk product," says Dr. Victoria Maizes.

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Live Below the Line challenges people to live under the poverty line for five days, and to buy all the food and drink needed to survive during that time with just $8.75 a week or roughly $1.75 a day. Here is a recipe to help you take the challenge.

In the kitchen, below the line

IZABELA SZYDLO
life@metronews.ca

What do celebs like Ben Affleck, Hugh Jackman, Canadian actor Ennis Esmer, Osman 'Oz' Bey of CTV's The Listener and Carrie-Lynn Neals of CityTv's Seed have in common with thousands of Canadians and Americans? They're all taking part in the Live Below the Line challenge, during which participants spend just $8.75 a week or roughly $1.75 per day ($1.50 in the United States) on all daily food and drink from today to May 3.

The $1.75 per day mark is the Canadian equivalent of the poverty line and the goal of this challenge is to begin a national dialogue to change the way Canadians think about the choices made every day by those living in extreme poverty.

In addition to raising awareness by partaking in the challenge, Canadians are raising funds for four partner organizations: Cuso International, Spread the Net, RESULTS Canada and Raising the Village.

"Living on $1.75 per day is not about pretending to be poor," says Erin Deviney, Canadian campaign manager of Live Below the Line. "It's about raising awareness of the difficult choices 1.4 billion people must make to survive each day and supporting partner organizations combating poverty."

Chef John Placko of Modern Culinary Academy, one of Canada's top culinary consultants, and food stylist Christina Frantzis have created recipes to help Canadians with the challenge.

Ingredients

- 100 g linguine
- 1/2 Italian sausage, casing removed
- 1 white mushroom, halved and sliced
- 1 tbsp tomato paste
- Pinch of dried oregano

This dish costs $0.64 per person to make. MARTHA WEBER

Linguine with Sausage and Mushroom Ragout

1. Fill a medium-sized pot with water and bring to boil. Cook pasta according to package instructions then drain.

2. Add sausage to small pan and break it up while sautéing over medium heat until almost no pink remains.

3. Slice mushroom and add to a pan. Cook over moderate heat until softened.

4. Stir in tomato paste and reserved cooking water into sausage mixture and simmer until reduced by half. Add oregano and spoon sauce over pasta and enjoy. CHRISTINA FRANTZIS, FOOD STYLIST AND RECIPE DEVELOPER

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Don't be ashamed to Google your name

Put your online persona in its place.

Five important tips for managing your online reputation

JULIA FURLAN
Metro World News

Seeing some scary stuff on there? Get a grip on your Google results with some extra organization and care. ISTOCK

Take it seriously
Treat your online profile as a professional asset and determine if it positions you the way you want it to. Google yourself often and see what the world sees when they look for you.

Commit to a professional online persona
You will be judged by what you post and what others do, too. Select a professional voice and spell-check your postings. Don't post or say anything online that you wouldn't want your grandmother or boss to see.

Monitor
Sign up for free, no-obligation alerts on a site that manages online reputations. Enter your name or other keywords and be alerted when potentially damaging materials are posted about you. At Reputation Changer, the technology crawls the "deep web" going beyond what search engines look at to see what dangers may exist.

Take proactive control
Commit to ensuring that the entire first page of Google's search results for your name or your company bring up websites or pages that you control.

1. Even a site like Yelp or Wikipedia portrays you in a particular way, so make sure you control the message.

2. Set your Facebook privacy settings so that nobody can tag you in a picture without your approval. Review the privacy settings of all the social media sites you use.

3. Create online assets using your exact personal and/or company name as the title (such as .com or .net). Use social media profiles and free blogs. Update and post to these pages consistently. The volume of activity required depends on how prominent you are. The more prominent you are, the more active you must be.

THESE TIPS WERE COMPILED BY MICHAEL ZAMMUTO, PRESIDENT OF REPUTATION CHANGER, A COMPANY THAT HELPS PEOPLE MANAGE THEIR ONLINE PERSONAS.

Damage control

Prepare for the worst and react fast

- **Proactively build up some messages that you can release if a negative news story breaks.** If you believe that people may post negative or embarrassing things about you, try to head it off, but expect that you cannot.
- **Once it is out there you can only react to it.** If you need to apologize, do that, but don't debate online because it drags out the conversation. Shift the conversation to the things that you want people to focus on.

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Canucks in for whale of struggle vs. Sharks

NHL playoffs. Schneider's health the main focus as practice resumes Monday

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Alain Vigneault had a very succinct response to a question last week about possible playoff opponents.

"Pick your poison," said the Vancouver Canucks head coach. That was before the conclusion of the regular season, when the remaining teams in both conferences were still vying for the final few spots in the post-season.

Well, the Stanley Cup playoff picture in the Western Conference is set, and the Vancouver Canucks will face the San Jose Sharks in the opening round.

The National Hockey League released the quarter-final schedule late Sunday evening. Game 1 between the Canucks and Sharks is Wednesday at Rogers Arena.

It's a rematch of the 2011 Western Conference final, which Vancouver won in five games thanks to a double-overtime goal from defenceman Kevin Bieksa that sent the Canucks through to the Stanley Cup final.

In 2013, it's a battle between the Canucks, the Northwest Division champions and third in the Western Conference, and the sixth-place Sharks.

The Sharks swept the season series, winning all three meetings between the two clubs, including a shoot-out victory in Vancouver in March.

Canucks goalie Cory Schneider took the loss in all three games.

Schneider's health is of growing concern.

He missed the final two games of the season with a mysterious "body injury" that occurred during the Canucks' win over the Chicago Blackhawks seven days ago.

There should be a better indication of Schneider's health when practice resumes Monday.

The Canucks do have a pretty good insurance plan if Schneider is unable to play. Roberto Luongo, who won a gold medal for Canada at the 2010 Olympics and took the Canucks to Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final, was not dealt at the trade deadline.

Canucks goalie Cory Schneider stops a shot from Sharks captain Joe Thornton during a Jan. 27 meeting in San Jose. The Canucks enter the first round of the playoffs against the Sharks with home-ice advantage, but San Jose swept the season series 3-0 and the status of Schneider's health is in question as the week begins. THEARON W. HENDERSON/GETTY IMAGES

How they match up

	Vancouver Canucks	San Jose Sharks
Record:	26-15-7	25-16-7
Power Play:	15.8% (22nd)	20.1% (7th)
Penalty Kill:	84% (8)	85% (6th)
Last 10 games:	5-4-1	5-5-0

NBA. Spurs keep clean sheet vs. Lakers in Round 1

Tony Parker scored 23 points, and the San Antonio Spurs completed their first-round sweep of the injury-plagued Los Angeles Lakers with a 103-82 victory in Game 4 on Sunday night.

The Lakers, who played without three regular starters, made their first opening-round exit since 2007.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spurs power forward Tim Duncan, right, celebrates in front of Lakers counterpart Pau Gasol on Sunday. GETTY IMAGES

NHL. Sens win in finale to set up clash with Habs

Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored the tiebreaking goal with 3:34 to play and the Ottawa Senators beat Boston 4-2 on Sunday night in the NHL's rescheduled regular-season finale.

The victory gave the Senators the seventh seed for the Eastern Conference playoffs and a matchup with Montreal, and dropped the New York Islanders into eighth and a first-round series against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The Bruins finished fourth and will play Toronto in the first round.

The game was originally scheduled for April 15, the day of the Boston Marathon bombing. It was the only NHL game on Sunday, with the rest of the league wrapping up by Saturday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLS

Diving allegations spur Whitecaps, Dallas rivalry

The Vancouver Whitecaps and FC Dallas seemed to have spawned something of a rivalry, even if they don't play in the same conference.

The latest development occurred Saturday in a highly emotional 2-2 draw between the two clubs at BC Place. The two teams were playing each other for the second time in seven days.

The Whitecaps found themselves down two goals early in the second half, but roared back thanks to the play of 18-year-old rookie Kekuta Manneh coming off the bench.

It didn't take long for the conversation to shift to the controversial topic of diving, which FC Dallas players were accused of perpetrating in excess throughout the match.

"I'd like to tell you what I think about that," said Whitecaps head coach Martin Rennie.

"I've been in soccer in North America for seven years ... and one of the things I like about it most is the fair play and the honesty and the integrity and the lack of diving. And you'll have to judge yourself — you saw the game — if you think that was the case (Saturday) or not."

Minutes after Rennie addressed reporters, FC Dallas coach Schellas Hyndman offered a retort when questioned about accusations of diving.

"I have such a hard time sleeping at night; I worry about it so much," Hyndman said frivolously.

"What do you think? You think I take it personal? What do you think? You think I'm going to worry about what you think of us or am I going to worry about my team?

"I'm trying to be nice here and say you guys (Whitecaps) did a great job but now you're kind of embarrassing me."

CAM TUCKER/METRO

Rookie Kekuta Manneh helped the Whitecaps earn a tie against FC Dallas on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
It's not like you to be so openly affectionate but someone seems to have fired up your passion. Whatever the reason for the sudden upsurge of loving feelings it's something you should do more often.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There are so many wonderful aspects operating in your favor now that all things are possible. Wishes you made in the past that came to nothing WILL come true this week.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you need to give your self-confidence a boost ask a friend what they think of your latest creative project. Most likely they will praise it to the skies and your ego will go through the roof too.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
What a loved one tells you today may be interesting but you would be wise not to take it too seriously. It could be that they have been mislead, so check the facts carefully.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You could meet someone interesting today, but only if you make the effort to get out and about. You could also be the beneficiary of a stroke of good fortune you probably don't deserve.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you make a few small and apparently insignificant savings now you won't have to make so many major sacrifices later on. As a Virgo you are supposed to be organized.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Tell someone how you feel about them today — provided, of course, your feelings are warm and generous. Don't put it off a moment longer.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You may want to help a colleague who clearly is in need of assistance but if you have already helped them several times in the recent past maybe you should let them suffer. It may be the only way they learn.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are in an unusually loving mood at the moment and long may it continue. However, don't be so loving that you forget that not everyone shares your natural generosity.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may be unsure of your abilities but others have faith in you and will go out of their way to show it today. If they ask you to get up in front of an audience be brave and do it.

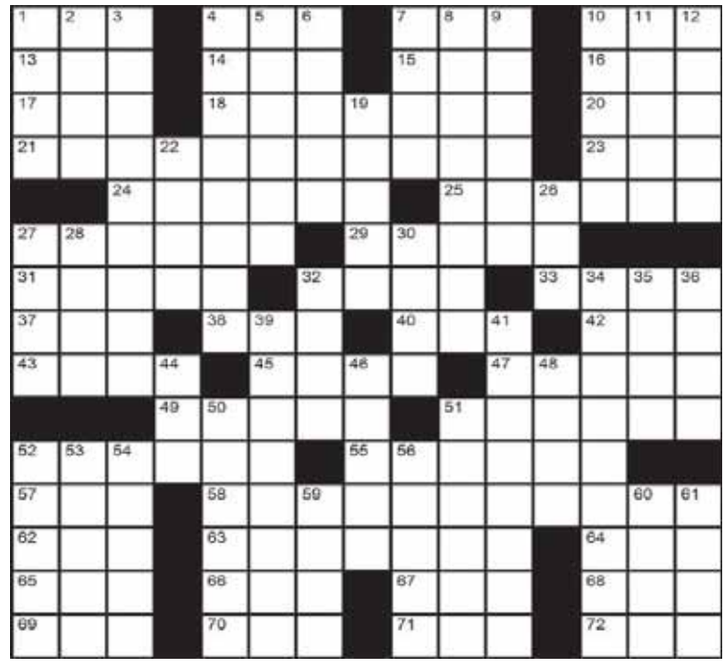
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You seem to be everyone's favorite Aquarius at the moment, but don't let it lull you into a false sense of security. You still have some big issues to deal with and some big rivals to overcome.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The next few days are going to be very busy indeed, not only in body but in mind as well. New ideas will grab your attention and new opportunities will tempt you to try something different. So try. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

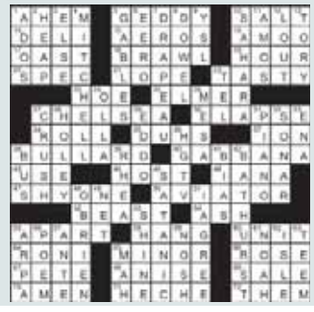
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. _∑∑_ Cosmetics
4. Tee-__ (Chuckle)
7. Opera singing style, __ canto
10. Tub
13. Texting point-of-view
14. Crawling plant
15. Iron's partner
16. 'Percent' suffix
17. Wetland
18. __ Triangle
20. Company name abbr.
21. New Brunswick's provincial capital
23. Headed
24. __ Globetrotters
25. Crunchy veggie
27. Canadian actor Henry of ABC's "Revenge"
29. Milk carton size
31. Raccoon-like animal
32. Dean Martin's nickname
33. Twirled
37. Pay-when-received [acronym]
38. House siding material, for short
40. Airport screen abbr.
42. Maritime workers' org.
43. "__ __ Excited" by The Pointer Sisters
45. Overlook
47. Master of ceremonies
49. Safety __ (Accessibility aids)
51. Bicycle wheel parts
52. Residential area
55. On the beach
57. 'Cond' completer (Excuse)
58. Telemarketing workplaces: 2 wds.
62. Thespian's verb
63. Garden's lattice work
64. Little devil
65. Boring routine
66. 'Glycer' suffix
67. 'Mod' suffix
68. Ms. Peeples
69. Barn abode
70. Lettuce variety
71. Some univ. degrees
72. Axl Rose's rock gr.

Down
1. Annoy
2. Actress Ms. Ferrera, for short
3. 1993 Dan Aykroyd comedy in which he reprised his Beldar character from "Saturday Night Live"
4. Offshore oil platform in the Jeanne d'Arc Basin of Newfoundland's Grand Banks
5. The __ Brothers
6. High nest [var. sp.]
7. Boxing match
8. George Clooney, on TV: acr. + wd.
9. More svelte
10. Montreal's Place __ Marie
11. Adjust
12. Toy bear
19. Old Rome's 1951
22. Dash
26. WKRP employee
27. Gladiator's 301
28. Move quickly
30. __ the finish: 2 wds.
32. Toss away
34. __ Nuclear (Generating station east of Toronto)
35. 1997 Peter Fonda title role
36. Rob Roy's refusals
39. Guy __ and His Royal Canadians
41. Answers: French
44. Q. "What's the 21st letter?" A. "Hmmm... either T __ __."
46. "Love __ __ you need." - The Beatles
48. Beetle Bailey creator Mr. Walker
50. North Pole's __ Ocean
51. Canadian actress Ms. McCarthy
52. Goes parasailing
53. Not-mowed grass
54. Actress Ms. White
56. _ __ 7 (Brit pop group)
59. Some brand name jeans
60. Scale with one sharp, _ __.
61. Box

Friday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

7		5				3		4
	9		8		4		2	
4			9		3			5
		6	4		9	2		
		4	7		2	1		
1			3		8			6
	7		2		6		4	
3		9				8		2

Friday's Sudoku

7	2	8	9	6	1	3	4	5
4	3	1	2	8	5	6	7	9
5	9	6	7	4	3	8	1	2
6	8	3	5	1	7	2	9	4
9	4	5	6	2	8	7	3	1
2	1	7	4	3	9	5	8	6
1	5	4	8	7	2	9	6	3
3	7	2	1	9	6	4	5	8
8	6	9	3	5	4	1	2	7

Today
11°/6°
Sunny

Tuesday
13°/5°
Sunny

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Manchester	from $835
Frankfurt	from $849
London	from $984
Hong Kong	from $1049
Barcelona	from $1199
Sydney	from $1389

Europe

London
Air + 6 Nights
from **$1523**
INCLUDES central accom near Russell Square. **ADD** Red Rover Thames hop-on hop-off tour from $15.

Barcelona & Madrid
Air + 8 Nights — from $1899
INCLUDES all airfare, 4 nights central Barcelona accom and 4 nights central Madrid accom.

Rome Air + 7 Nights — from $1934
INCLUDES accom in the historic centre. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **ADD** Vatican Museum tour from $70.

Greece
Air + 4 Nights + 8-day Cruise — from $2799
INCLUDES roundtrip Athens airfare, 4 nights pre-cruise accom in Athens, 8-day Island Hopping Cruise that includes 3 nights accom in Mykonos, 2 nights accom in Naxos, 2 nights accom in Santorini, island transfers, ferry tickets and all boat transfers. **BONUS** daily breakfast included.

Europe Tours

Europe 23-Day Tour
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London & Edinburgh
7-Day Tour — from $1439
HIGHLIGHTS London's Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, Whitehall's mounted horseguards and Piccadilly Circus. Scotland's 200-year-old "New Town", the Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle. Travel London to Edinburgh.

France & Italy
13-Day Tour — from $2040
HIGHLIGHTS Paris, Beaune, Avignon, Nice, Monaco, Cinque Terre National Park, Florence and Rome. Travel Paris to Rome.

Cruise & Stays

Caribbean & New Orleans
Air + 2 Nights + 7-Night Cruise
from **$1449**
INCLUDES airfare, central New Orleans French Quarter accom and cruise sailing roundtrip New Orleans visiting Roatan (Honduras), Belize City and Cozumel (Mexico). **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom and oceanview stateroom from $9 per night.

Mediterranean & Rome
Air + 2 Nights + 7-Night Cruise — from $2039
INCLUDES airfare, central Rome accom and cruise sailing roundtrip Rome visiting Sicily, Athens, Ephesus (Turkey) and Crete (Greece). **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom and oceanview stateroom from $27 per night.

All-inclusive Vacations

Puerto Vallarta
7 Nights 4-Star
from **$779**

Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star	from $891
Los Cabos 7 Nights 4-Star	from $955
Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star	from $985

Short Breaks

Whistler
2 Nights 4-Star
from **$159** pp
INCLUDES accom in the Village over the long weekend.

Harrison Hot Springs
2 Nights — from $189pp
INCLUDES accom near Harrison Lake.

Victoria 2 Nights 4-Star — from $199pp
INCLUDES accom the Inner Harbour. **ADD** scenic sea float plane from $128.

Canada & USA

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights
from **$405**
INCLUDES accom on the Strip. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $13 per night.

Anaheim Family Special
Air + 3 Nights — from $368◊
INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** *Disneyland* Resort 3-Day *Park Hopper* Ticket from $244/adult, $229/child (ages 3-9).

San Francisco Air + 3 Nights — from $589
INCLUDES central accom near Union Square and City Hall.

Montreal Air + 3 Nights — from $689
INCLUDES accom near the Old Port. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $29 per night. **ADD** first class city tour from $60.

Toronto Air + 3 Nights — from $739
INCLUDES downtown accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $13 per night. **ADD** Niagara Falls day trip from $156.

Maui Air + 5 Nights — from $836
INCLUDES Kihei 1-bedroom suite accom with fully equipped kitchen.

Vacations

Thailand Air + 8 Nights
from **$1399**
INCLUDES roundtrip Bangkok airfare, 4 nights accom in Bangkok and 4 nights accom in Hua Hin. **ADD** Pala U Waterfall day tour from $147.

Shanghai Air + 6 Nights — from $959
INCLUDES central accom near The Bund.

Costa Rica
Air + 8-Day Self Drive Tour — from $1578
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